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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

DATE DISTR 15 SEP 51

SUBJECT

North Korean Activities during the  
Second Occupation of Seoul

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1. About 10 January 1951, North Korean governmental organs were set up in Seoul and the people were asked to participate in the rehabilitation of the city. But the people paid little attention, because all the employees of the internal affairs offices and people's committees were those who had fled the city in September and thus, it was felt, did not have the interests of the people of Seoul at heart.
2. On 18 January, a youth corps was organized in the city, with the backing of the Seoul Garrison commander, CHONG Ch'ol-su (鄭 昌 洙). Members of the corps were drawn from the families of North Korean soldiers. They were given arms and assisted in the maintenance of law and order within the city. The members of the corps tried to recruit other young men in Seoul, but generally met resistance. Women and girls were forced to join the Women's League.
3. The North Korean Ministry of Interior announced that all those who had formerly been members of reactionary organizations would be pardoned if they came forward and confessed. No one came forward, however. There was not a single instance of direct punishment by the North Korean government, basically because there was no one left to punish. However, people were held for interrogation. Sentries would arrest and question suspicious persons, who, if cleared, would have to put in a few days' work for the government before they were allowed to return home.
4. The Internal Affairs Office concerned itself mainly with arresting reactionaries and investigation of transportation of food and supplies. From 25 February on, it began rounding up all young men and women left in the city to be sent north for training. The people's committees were supposed to handle administration of the city, but since there was little to do, they searched houses for goods and acted as air-raid observers. An air-raid was indicated by two rifle shots, followed by three more shots. The State Security Department had the most important functions of gathering intelligence and arresting enemy agents. A suspected enemy agent would be followed until sufficient evidence had been collected before he was arrested. After the arrest, his trial would be very quick. One of the State Security intelligence collection methods was to send old men and

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women into United Nations territory to bring back information.

5. On 1 February, a Soviet officer was seen at the Hwawon Market, Central District, and another Soviet in civilian clothes was seen at the South Gate Market, inquiring about commodity prices. On 23 February two Soviets, accompanied by a member of the Internal Affairs office, were observed at the Puna Hotel.
6. A temporary prisoner of war camp was set up at the Sunhwa Hospital at Okinbong, Chongno-ku, for 60 United Nations prisoners, of whom one third were negroes. After arising at 5:00 a.m. the prisoners were put to work pushing hand carts loaded with news print until 11:00 a.m. when they were served a ball of mixed barley and beans. They continued work digging trenches and transporting fuel until 8:00 p.m. when they were given an indoctrination lecture, followed by dinner, which consisted of a dish of bean gruel.
7. On 1 February, Seoul residents were mobilized to transport grains into the city for distribution under the rationing program. However, only families of Communist officials received the ration. On 14 February, the Communist authorities ordered a temporary evacuation but rescinded the order two days later in order to prepare for an orderly withdrawal. From 25 February to 2 March, the evacuation was carried out, with families of Communist officials moving first. The general public was ordered to move to Poshon (127-13, 37-54), and Changtan (126-46, 37-56) but was reluctant to go.
8. On 3 March, when the evacuation of important personnel had been completed, a Front Relief Unit was mobilized from transportation, nursing, and rehabilitation companies. Members of the Democratic Youth Alliance and other citizens of Seoul between the ages of 17 and 30 were forced to remain and work until 11 March, when they also evacuated.

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\* [REDACTED] For previous reports on North Korean activities during the second occupation of Seoul see SC 67005 and referenced reports.

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